

# First Sunday in Lent

## February 17-18, 2024



The First Sunday in Lent begins this penitential season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter with the account of a test by God and temptations by the devil. In the Old Testament Reading, Abraham is tested in the wilderness, after which God shows mercy in the face of this trial. In the Epistle, the apostle teaches that while the Lord tests to strengthen faith, “God tempts no one”. As the Small Catechism reminds us, it is “the devil, the world, and our sinful nature” that deceive and mislead “into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice”. The traditional Hymn of the Day for Lent 1, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” proclaims Jesus Christ as the victor over Satan, the old evil foe. The inaugural battle for this is depicted in the traditional Gospel for Lent 1, the temptation of our Lord in the wilderness.

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*Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly make disciples of Christ as we*

**KNOW** Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more like Him and

**SOW** His love in Word and deed.



## **Saturday 4 p.m. Blended Worship Service**

**Steve Bumgarner – Accompanist**

### **“The Daily Battle, the Forever Victory” - James 1:12–18**

The season of Lent lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays). This forty-day season of Lent is a time of fasting and repentance. It is a time when we recall Jesus’ forty days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness. Throughout these forty days, remember where we are going. We are headed toward the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. We are headed toward Jesus’ victory over sin, death, and the devil.

### **WELCOME**

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **Opening Song**

#### **“Draw Me Close”**

Draw me close to You. Never let me go.  
I lay it all down again to hear You say that I’m Your friend.  
You are my desire! No one else will do!  
Cause nothing else could take Your place to feel the warmth of Your embrace  
Help me find the way! Bring me back to You!

You’re all I want! You’re all I ever needed!  
You’re all I want! Help me know You are near!

Draw me close to You. Never let me go.  
I lay it all down again to hear You say that I’m Your friend.  
You are my desire! No one else will do!  
Cause nothing else could take Your place to feel the warmth of Your embrace  
Help me find the way! Bring me back to You!

You’re all I want! You’re all I ever needed!  
You’re all I want! Help me know You are near!  
Help me know You are near!

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### **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### **Opening Sentences**

**P** It was in this triune name of God that we were baptized—

**C** the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**P** As we begin our Lenten journey, we remember our Baptism.

**C** We remember we were washed and forgiven.

**P** We remember we were made members of God’s family.

**C** We remember we were united with Jesus.

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Heavenly Father,

**C** we have ignored Your help in resisting Satan and His temptations. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Yet our entire lives are lives of repentance. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, and lead us in righteousness, on account of Jesus. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to endure temptation, suffering, and death for us and our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen. We are forgiven. We are baptized into Christ.**

### Introit

*Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16*

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;\*

**I will rescue him and | honor him.**

With long life I will sat- | isfy him\*

**and show him my sal- | vation.**

Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—\*

**the Most High, who is my | refuge—**

no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,\*

**no plague come | near your tent.**

For he will command his angels con- | cerning you\*

**to guard you in | all your ways.**

On their hands they will | bear you up, \*

**lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the | adder;\*

**the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.**

### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

[Today's Bible readings are found on pages 19-20 of this worship program]

**Old Testament Reading:** *Genesis 22:1-18*

**Epistle Reading:** *James 1:12-18*

### Verse

*Ephesians 6:11*

**P** Put on the whole armor of God,

**C** that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

**Holy Gospel:** *Mark 1:9-15*

### “The Servant King”

From heav'n You came helpless babe. Enter'd our world Your glory veil'd.

Not to be served but to serve and give Your life that we might live.

This is our God the Servant King! He calls us now to follow Him!  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King!

There in the garden of tears. My heavy load He chose to bear.  
His heart with sorrow was torn, yet not my will but Yours He said.

This is our God the Servant King! He calls us now to follow Him!  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King!

Come see His hands and His feet. The scars that speak of sacrifice.  
Hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered!

This is our God the Servant King! He calls us now to follow Him!  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King!

So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone Him.  
Each other's needs to prefer for it is Christ we're serving!

This is our God the Servant King! He calls us now to follow Him!  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King!

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## **Sermon Message: “The Daily Battle, the Forever Victory” - James 1:12-18**

### **Nicene Creed**

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** ... For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.

### **Offerings of Our Time, Talents & Treasures**

“Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.”

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

**Preparation for Holy Communion** [as found on page 11 of this worship program]

### **Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### **Proper Preface**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **The Words of Our Lord**

### **Proclamation of Christ**

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**A** Amen.

## Distribution

**Musical Offering** by Laney Kieffer

**“The Lamb”**

LSB 547

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

## Benediction

## Closing Song:

### “Thy Word”

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way - still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near - Please be near me to the end *Chorus*

I will not forget Your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side - I will love You to the end *Chorus*

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## **Sunday 9 a.m. Traditional Worship Service**

Divine Service *Setting Three* – LSB pg. 184

**Kevin Vollrath – Organist**

**“The Daily Battle, the Forever Victory”** - *James 1:12–18*

The season of Lent lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays). This forty-day season of Lent is a time of fasting and repentance. It is a time when we recall Jesus' forty days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness. Throughout these forty days, remember where we are going. We are headed toward the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. We are headed toward Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil.

### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

#### **WELCOME**

#### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

LSB 656

#### **INVOCATION**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** – LSB pg. 184

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

### **SERVICE OF THE WORD** – LSB pg. 186

#### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16*

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;\*

**I will rescue him and | honor him.**

With long life I will sat- | isfy him\*

**and show him my sal- | vation.**

Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—\*

**the Most High, who is my | refuge—**

no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you, \*

**no plague come | near your tent.**

For he will command his angels con- | cerning you\*

**to guard you in | all your ways.**

On their hands they will | bear you up, \*

**lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the | adder;\*

**the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.**

#### **KYRIE**

LSB 186

#### **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

LSB 189

[Today's Bible readings are found on pages 19-20 of this worship program]

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** *Genesis 22:1-18*

**EPISTLE READING:** *James 1:12-18*

**HOLY GOSPEL:** *Mark 1:9-15*

## NICENE CREED

LSB 191

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## HYMN

**“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”**

LSB 594

**SERMON:** “The Daily Battle, the Forever Victory” - *James 1:12-18*

## OFFERTORY

LSB 192

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** ... For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.

## OFFERINGS OF OUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

“Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.”

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT – *LSB pg. 194*

**PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION** [as found on page 11 of this worship program]

## PREFACE

LSB 194

## SANCTUS

LSB 195

## LORD’S PRAYER

LSB 196

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

## PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

## DISTRIBUTION

LSB 199

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

**Musical Offering** by Laney Kieffer

**“O Lord, We Praise Thee”**

LSB 617

**“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”**

LSB 421

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

## THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

## SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

## BENEDICTION

LSB 202

## CLOSING HYMN

**“O Christ, You Walked the Road”**

LSB 424

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# ***Sunday 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service***

**Steve Bumgarner – Accompanist**

## ***“The Daily Battle, the Forever Victory” - James 1:12–18***

The season of Lent lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays). This forty-day season of Lent is a time of fasting and repentance. It is a time when we recall Jesus’ forty days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness. Throughout these forty days, remember where we are going. We are headed toward the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. We are headed toward Jesus’ victory over sin, death, and the devil.

## **Welcome and Time of Greeting**

### ***“Draw Me Close”***

Draw me close to You. Never let me go.  
I lay it all down again to hear You say that I’m Your friend.  
You are my desire! No one else will do!  
Cause nothing else could take Your place to feel the warmth of Your embrace  
Help me find the way! Bring me back to You!  
  
You’re all I want! You’re all I ever needed!  
You’re all I want! Help me know You are near!  
  
Draw me close to You. Never let me go.  
I lay it all down again to hear You say that I’m Your friend.  
You are my desire! No one else will do!  
Cause nothing else could take Your place to feel the warmth of Your embrace  
Help me find the way! Bring me back to You!  
  
You’re all I want! You’re all I ever needed!  
You’re all I want! Help me know You are near!  
Help me know You are near!

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## **Invocation**

*Pastor: We come, trusting in God's mercy and love, longing to know and to learn more about God's ways.*

**People: We come, to be guided in the ways of God's truth—to experience the joy of God's salvation.**

*Pastor: We come at the beginning of our Lenten journey, aware of God's steadfast love helping us to overcome the trials and temptations which can descend on us at any time.*

**People: Lead us, O God, to do what is right in Your eyes and teach us to follow the humble way of Christ, Your beloved Son, our crucified and risen Lord.**

*Pastor: God of revelation, unveil Your Kingdom in our midst. Show us who we truly are in You.*

**People: So, lead and guide us on this Lenten way. May we walk with Jesus toward the hill just outside of Jerusalem. May we, like Him take up our cross and follow, spending each moment of our lives living responsively to You, just as Christ Himself did. For that is the faithful way.**

*Pastor: Praise the Lord. Amen!*

## **Opening Prayer**

## **Time of Confession and Forgiveness**

*Pastor: Jesus says: “The time is ready, the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the Gospel.”*

**People: O come, let us return unto our God, who will have mercy and abundantly pardon.**

*Pastor: Most holy God, we confess to You and each other that we are so dazzled by the false gods of this age, that we find it hard to recognise who we are, where we came from, or where we are going.*



**People:** We easily become caught up in selfishness, seduced by cynicism, waylaid by glittering consumerism, and led by the nose along the highways and byways created by powerful, vested interests. Please open our eyes that we may see ourselves more clearly, and seek You more diligently.

*Pastor: Most loving God, arrest the false god's that have diverted us, show us the deceits that have blurred our vision, unmask the poverty of our goals and longings, expose the cheap values that parade as virtues, save us from permitting a rift between Christ and us, and deliver us from cheap guilt and trivial remorse.*

**People:** Please bring us to an honest repentance, the forgiveness of sins, and the renewal of our faith and love.

*Pastor: May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins and restore us in His image to the praise and glory of His name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**People:** Amen!

## † We Hear God's Word †

(Today's Bible readings are found on pages 19-20 of this worship program)

**Old Testament Reading:** *Genesis 22:1-18*

**Epistle Reading:** *James 1:12-18*

**Holy Gospel:** *Mark 1:9-15*

**Response Song:** "The Servant King"

From heav'n You came helpless babe. Enter'd our world Your glory veil'd.  
Not to be served but to serve and give Your life that we might live.

This is our God the Servant King! He calls us now to follow Him!  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King!

There in the garden of tears. My heavy load He chose to bear.  
His heart with sorrow was torn, yet not my will but Yours He said.

This is our God the Servant King! He calls us now to follow Him!  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King!

Come see His hands and His feet. The scars that speak of sacrifice.  
Hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered!

This is our God the Servant King! He calls us now to follow Him!  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King!

So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone Him.  
Each other's needs to prefer for it is Christ we're serving!

This is our God the Servant King! He calls us now to follow Him!  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King!

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**Message:** "The Daily Battle, the Forever Victory" - *James 1:12-18*



## † We Respond to God's Word †

### Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

## † We Pray †

### Prayer of the Church

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### Offerings of Our Time, Talents & Treasures

"Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord."

## † We Celebrate the Lord's Supper †

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

**We Prepare** (as found on page 11 of this worship program)

### Words of Institution

### Distribution

#### Music During Communion:

#### "The Lamb"

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice? Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, one perfect final offering. The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, as wayward sheep their shepherd kill so still, His will on our behalf the Law to fill.  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He rose, He rose, my heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong till ev'ry heart to Him belong.  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

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## † We Depart in Peace †

### Benediction

### Closing Song:

#### “Thy Word”

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way - still You're there right beside me

Nothing will I fear as long as You are near - Please be near me to the end *Chorus*

I will not forget Your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering

Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side - I will love You to the end *Chorus*

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### PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29*

**The following is a summary of what we believe and teach as Missouri Synod Lutheran Christians.**

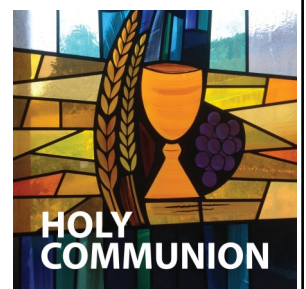
**Because we care for you, we ask that you carefully review the following statements:**

1. I have been baptized into the name of the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:16-20*
2. I have been instructed concerning the meaning of Holy Communion, understand the importance of self-examination prior to coming to the Lord's Supper and have made my confirmation of faith. *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
3. I confess that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. I am sorry for my sins. *1 John 1:8-9*
4. I believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. *Romans 3:21-24*
5. I believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ are really present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and I desire to receive Christ's body and blood, given and shed for my forgiveness. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*
6. If possible, so far as it depends on me, I seek to live peaceably with all. *Romans 12:17-19*
7. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I desire and intend to lead a more Godly and Christ-like life, trusting in God's promises and obeying His commands. *Galatians 5:22-24*

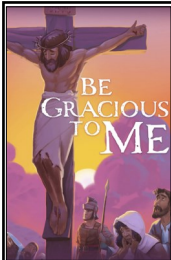
*If you unreservedly agree with the seven points above, you are invited to come to the Lord's Supper. If you do not agree with one or more of the seven points, please refrain from participating in Holy Communion lest you sin against the body and blood of the Lord. If you agree with the seven points above but are not a member of St. John's, we welcome you to the Lord's Table and invite you to give prayerful consideration to joining our partnership in the Gospel. You are encouraged to speak with a pastor or elder prior to communing regarding any point(s) of disagreement and/or regarding the process of joining St. John's.*

**Gluten-Free Communion Wafers:** A gluten-free communion wafer option is now available for those who are allergic. They are located in the brass cup in the middle of the communion plate.

**Communion Wine:** For those who have health related, or other issues with drinking alcohol, please take the purple individual communion cup. It contains all water with one drop of wine.



# NOTES AND NEWS



**Midweek Lent Bible Study Series**  
***"Be Gracious to Me"* led by Pastor Jack**  
**Weekly for 5 Wednesdays: February 21 through March 20**

**6:30 pm at the Heritage House**

Please stop in and enjoy a delicious Lenten Supper hosted by one of our St. John's Ministries in the school cafeteria, and then join us for our midweek Lenten Bible Study titled, *"Be Gracious to Me"*. This study centers around Psalm 41 where God's grace wells up and King David exults God, tracing the flow of divine grace from the source to its believers. He watches the current flow spring forth in the lives of all believers through Baptism. Discover how Christ's sufferings are your sufferings, and more importantly, how David's words in Psalm 41 have become your reality through Christ. In the day of trouble, the Lord delivers you. The Lord protects you and keeps you alive. You are called blessed in the land.

If you are interested in attending, you are welcome to use the Sign-Up Genius link provided below, or contact Regina Bullerman through **email:** [rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org](mailto:rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org) or **phone:** 937-240-3004. If you miss a sign-up opportunity, please feel free to join us anyway.

**Sign Up Genius Link:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845A8AA22A2FB6-47220213-lent>

## Please join us for the **INSTALLATION OF TEACHER JODI NICOL**

Join us in congratulating Jodi as she accepts a call to serve at St. John's Lutheran School.

**February 25th**

11:00 am service in the school gym  
There will be a light reception and card shower in the gymnasium starting at 10:00 am.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**2024 Lenten & Holy Week Worship Service**  
**Schedule and Activities**



### **Lenten Worship Services**

**Midweek Lenten Services:** *February 21 & 28; March 6, 13, and 20; 4:00 pm*

**Midweek Lenten Suppers:** *Wednesdays, February 21-March 20, 5:00-6:30 pm in the School Cafeteria/Gym*

**Midweek Lenten Bible Study:** *Wednesdays, February 21-March 20: "Be Gracious to Me", weekly Bible study, led by Pastor Jack, 6:30 pm in the Heritage House.*



### **Holy Week Worship Services** **March 24-March 30**

**Palm Sunday Services:** *March 24*

9:00 am: 2024 Youth Rite of Confirmation & 1st Holy Communion - Sanctuary  
11:00 am: Contemporary - Gym

**Maundy Thursday Service:** *March 28*

7:00 pm with Communion

**Good Friday:** *March 29*

Tenebrae Service: "Service of Darkness", 7:00 pm  
Prayer Vigil: Starts at 8:00 pm - Marie Pfarr Room

**Holy Saturday Service:** *March 30*

6:00 pm with Communion

**Easter Sunday Services:** *March 31*

9:00 & 11:00 am with Communion

**No Sunday School Classes, but please attend:**

10:00 am: Easter Egg Hunt for All Ages up to 6th Grade (Meet on the softball field)

10:15 am: Our Family Easter Breakfast hosted by the Cafeteria Bible Study Group

**Please Join Us — All Are Welcome!**



**JOIN US** on Wednesday, February 21, for our Midweek Lenten Supper, hosted by our LYF/YMO from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria/gym. The menu features Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, a Variety of Soups, Salad, Cake for Dessert and Beverages. Come out and have a great meal while supporting our 2024 LYF/YMO Mission Trip to Fredericksburg, Maryland, with a free will offering. We also invite you to join us for our Midweek Lenten Worship Service at 4:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary and Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Jack at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage House.

## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

**Welcome to St. John's!** Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray that you will encounter Christ, the Living Word, and in a new way experience His mercy and grace today. We ask if you are a visitor, or a worship scholarship participant (SJ School), to please fill out the **blue card** located in the pew rack in front of you. Then drop the card in the offering box as you leave worship. If you would like to know more about our ministry, please call the church office at 937-644-5540.

**The Lutheran Hour** is on the radio Sunday mornings at **7:00am on WLW (700 AM)**. Log on to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) for more information and channels. Jim Vandre, LHM Ambassador.

**St. John's Radio Program** airs Sunday mornings at **8:00am** on local channel **WQTT (1270 AM & 98.7 FM)**.

**Altar Flowers:** Altar Flowers are given in celebration of **Joel Rice's** birthday, and for **Josh Rayburn's** cancer remission.

**Chancel Flowers:** To the Glory of God and in celebration of **Marjorie Myers** birthday on February 18, flowers have been placed in the chancel by Dale, Margaret, Evan and Lilly Davisson.

### THE LORD'S WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S FEBRUARY 18-25, 2024

<b>TODAY</b> 02/18/24	9:00 am Traditional Worship Service (Live-Streamed): Communion
	10:00 am Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am 2023-24 Youth Catechism Class/Modulars
	11:00 am Contemporary Worship Service: Communion
	2:00 pm Sr. LYF: Escape Room Outing - Powell, OH
<b>MONDAY</b>	SCHOOL & OFFICES CLOSED: PRESIDENTS' DAY
	8:00 pm Adult Open Gym Volleyball
<b>TUESDAY</b>	11:30 am Ladies Aid Quilting
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:00 am Golden Eagles: "Antiques Roadshow"
	1:30 pm ACES/Youth House
	4:00 pm Lenten Worship Service
	5:00 pm Lenten Supper: Hosted by LYF/YMO
	6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study/Heritage House
<b>THURSDAY</b>	12:00 pm Ladies Aid Quilting
	8:00 pm Dartball/Gym
<b>FRIDAY</b>	1:00 pm Ladies Aid Quilting
<b>SATURDAY</b>	7:30 am Ladies Morning Bible Study/Heritage House
	4:00 pm Sanctuary Worship Service
<b>SUNDAY</b> 02/25/24	9:00 am Traditional Worship Service (Live-Streamed)
	10:00 am Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am 2023-24 Youth Catechism Class/Modulars
	10:00 am Installation Reception for Jodi Nicol/Gym
	11:00 am Contemporary Worship Service: Installation of Jodi Nicol
	12:00 pm VBS Volunteer Interest Meeting/Cafeteria
	6:00 pm Jr. LYF Gathering/Youth House

### ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 - 11:00 am

(Fall-Winter-Early Spring Schedule)

**3 Years-Kindergarten**—Church Basement

**1st-5th Grades**—Meet together in the gym with Teacher Mark Moran, and then move to school classrooms.

**6th Grade**—Mrs. Ashley Monroe's Classroom

**7th & 8th Grade Youth Catechism Class**—Mrs. Susie Miller & Mrs. Jayme Allen's Modular Classroom

**High School Youth "Cornerstone Discipleship"**—Youth House

**Women's Bible Study**—Classroom (below the school loft):

**Topic - "Where Love Abides."** Bible study based on John 15:1-17, written by Donna Snow.

**Adult Bible Study—School Cafeteria:** Topic - "Job" led by Rich & Kristine Rausch.

If you have questions,  
please contact the  
Sunday School Superintendent,  
Lisa Arnold at 937-205-1802 or  
[arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com](mailto:arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com)



### Weekly Church Attendance

**4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am**  
**2/10 & 2/11: 322**

### Weekly Worship Bible Readings

We have provided next weekends Bible readings for those of you who would like to read and study the Word ahead of next weekends worship services:

**February 24-25, 2024**

**Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

**Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-11**

**Holy Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38**

### Congregational Tithe—3rd Qtr. Mission Opportunities of Fiscal Year 2023-24

LCMS Ohio District - 50%;

Youth Mission Outreach - 10%;

Armed Forces Ministry - 40%





## NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



Those who are visiting with us today, please feel free to take a blue visitor "welcome" bag located in the back of church or on the tables in the gym at 11:00 am worship service.



### 2024 ALTAR FLOWER DATES

Flower dates can be reserved for the altar or chancel flowers by contacting Charlotte Blumenschein at (937) 644-4111. Chancel flowers are available almost every weekend. Dates available for altar flowers through the month of July are the following:

April 14	May 5	June 2	July 7	July 21
	May 12	June 23	July 14	July 28

Many dates are also available in August through December.

**The Flower Committee thanks you for your support.**



### Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has completed interviews with seven candidates from St. Louis and Fort Wayne Seminaries. The Call Committee feels blessed to bring four qualified names to our Congregation. Through conversations with the seminaries, research, interviews and lengthy discussions the Call Committee and Advisors are prayerfully bringing two candidates from St. Louis and two candidates from Fort Wayne before the Voters at a Special Voters meeting.

The actual date for this meeting will be determined in the coming days and will be published and announced as soon as possible. Please plan on attending this Special Voters meeting as this is a very important time for our church's future.

Feel free to call any of the Call Committee members with any questions you may have. Call Committee - Mike Priday, Sal Petrovia, Michael Blumenschein, Gene Nicol, Dan Vollrath, R.J. Zeiler, Steve Bumgarner, Mark Moran and Advisory Members, Pastor Jack and Principal Rich Rausch.

### Weekly Notes & News Deadline

Please submit articles by no later than Tuesday at noon to Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary. Call 937-240-3004, mail to the church office, or email to [rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org](mailto:rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org)



### Stephen Ministry Information

Greetings, we continue our process to rejuvenate our Stephen Ministry at St. John's.

Stephen Minister Training equips congregation members to provide a high level of emotional and spiritual care to individuals experiencing a life crisis. The training is practical, relational and interactive, covering essential caregiving topics such as these:

- Distinctively Christian caring
- Active listening
- Relating assertively
- Dealing with difficult emotions
- Crisis theory and intervention
- Confidentiality
- Maintaining boundaries
- Ministering during specific types of crises

Part of training, is also recognizing when to refer and involve the pastor, as well as professional counseling for intense situations.

Once Stephen Ministers have completed the 20 sessions of their initial training and are matched with care receivers, they participate in twice-monthly supervision and continuing education. This provides them with the support and guidance they need and helps them continue to grow as caregivers so they can offer the best care possible to their care receivers.

Stephen Ministry is a caregiving ministry, Christ is the "cure giver."

For more information on Stephen Ministry, please contact **Doug Doellinger**, Phone: 937-644-0576,

Email: [weaverwood8@gmail.com](mailto:weaverwood8@gmail.com)

or

**Marie Van Gorden**, Phone: 614-736-7162,

Email: [marievangorden@gmail.com](mailto:marievangorden@gmail.com).

**Website:** [Stephenministry.org](http://Stephenministry.org)



I appreciate all the cards I received during my brother's death.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

**Mary Stierhoff**

## MORE NOTES & NEWS



### Golden Eagles Host ... February 21st, 10 AM

Join us Wednesday, February 21st when The Golden Eagles will host our very own version of "Antiques Road Show"! **PLEASE NOTE: This event will be held at Union Rural Electric Headquarters, 15461 U.S. Highway 36, Marysville, The Roger Yoder Multipurpose Room at 10:00 AM.**

Have you ever watched **Antiques Roadshow** on our PBS network and pondered what treasure **YOU** might share if you had the opportunity?! Well, this is your chance! Join us and bring along an antique or collectible item that you would like to know more about! Perhaps something that has been passed down through the family; an object from the old days on the farm; a favorite piece of glassware from your favorite aunt; a military memento; or even an interesting old photograph! Local memorabilia is always popular and often brings back lots of memories for everyone in the audience! You may even have an item that has you stumped about its intended use!

We have invited dear friends and long-time antiques dealers and collectors, Dan Fawcett and Pat Rinehart-Irwin to be our guest experts. They will share highlights of their own personal collecting experiences, as well as offer information regarding date and possible origin of your treasures!

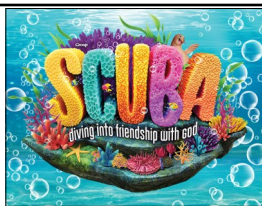
All are invited to stay for the light lunch that will follow the program. AND... as always, there's a good chance there will be ICE CREAM! If you would be willing to bring a dessert to share, please call or text Carol Reinhard so that we may coordinate with others. Lunch will be served in time for our ACES to return to the Youth House for card playing! Please feel free to contact Carol (614-579-9124) or Jeff (614-560-5085) for more information.

### Antiques Roadshow



### Get Ready to Dive In this Summer...

I know it feels early, but it's time to start planning for Vacation Bible School! If you're interested in helping this year, please join us for an interest meeting on

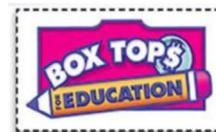


**Sunday, February 25, from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm** in the school cafeteria. There will be a few light snacks and childcare if you kiddos need to stay with you, they are more than welcome. At this meeting we will break down the different stations, and other leadership roles, decide on any other meeting times, training sessions, etc.

Regardless of whether you want to help with a leadership role, or just help the week of VBS, **please save these dates** on your calendar: **Sunday, June 9 - Thursday, June 13 from 6-8 pm.**

This is a growing outreach at St. John's. Every year we have more and more kids attending - it's an exciting week to be a part of! Please join us!

Students, participate in the Box Tops for Education program for an opportunity for your class to win!



**YOUR CLASS COULD  
WIN AN ICE CREAM**

Starting in February, St. John's Lutheran School will be collecting Box Tops submissions for each grade on the Box Tops app. The class with the most Box Tops collected from Feb 1st - 29th will receive a CEA-sponsored ice cream party!!

Scan the code to download the Box Tops app and start earning for our school today!



Please contact Sonja Collier ([cea@sismarysville.org](mailto:cea@sismarysville.org) or 614-266-9315) for further information.



## NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



### Young Adult /College Care Packages

The 7th and 8th grade Catechism classes need your help to send some love to our young adult members that are currently going to school, in training, or working through decisions on what path they want to take.

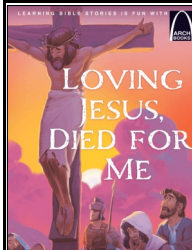
This year, we are asking for monetary donations so we can shop for items that will fit into boxes and keep the gifts consistent for all the young adults. Please consider giving towards the care packages (each box costs approximately \$25). You can place donations in an envelope and put in the offering plate with College Care Packages clearly labeled. We will be collecting donations through March 3rd. If your young adult is not listed in the current Notes & News prayer list, please contact Regina in the church office to get their info added by March 3rd. **Contact:** Kelly Gallmeyer with any questions at 614-325-1937.



### Ladies Hosting Lenten Supper

The Ladies Aid is hosting a Lenten Supper on February 28, 2024 at 5:00 pm after the 4:00 pm Lenten Service. We will be offering a Taco & Potato Bar with all the fixings. We are in need of food donation items, as well as helpers for this event. Sign-up sheets will be located in the Marie Pfarr Room and the Welcome Table in the gym after the church services. If you can help in any capacity, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, St. John's Ladies Aid

Contact: Brande Vollrath - (937) 243-5289



### Lenten Season Children's Arch Books Available

This Lenten season we have provided, from Arch Books, a Bible storybook for your child titled, "Loving Jesus, Died for Me."

No one has more love for you than Jesus Christ who sacrificed His life for us. He suffered on the cross to forgive your sins, despite the pain and fear. Then, He rose from the dead and conquered sin, so you could be forgiven! See all the loving moments of Jesus leading up to His death and resurrection in this illustrated children's book.

Share the joy of Easter Sunday with your child. Please pick up a copy located in the school entryway and the Marie Pfarr Room.



### Easter Egg Candy Donations for Easter Egg Hunt

We are accepting candy donations until **March 17**. The donations will be used to fill plastic eggs for the Sunday School Easter Egg hunt on March 31. Please bring in individually wrapped candy (preferably nut free) and drop them in the box located in the Marie Pfarr room.



*The mission of Ladies Aid is to share Jesus with our church family, our community, and our world.*

We host the Christmas Bazaar each year as our primary fundraiser. We also make quilts to raise money: those dollars are typically earmarked for carpeting in the sanctuary. Following is a list of donations we made throughout the past year:

- We send \$50 monthly to a local or international non-profit.
- We send \$600 to help young men who are studying to become pastors.
- Finally, we give the bulk of proceeds from the Bazaar to a single entity.

The monthly missions went to The Lutheran Hour, Rosie the Comfort Dog, LCMS Ministry of the Armed Forces, Apple of His Eye, Union County Military Family Support, Plain City Food Pantry, MMS Aviation, Food for the Poor, Lutheran World Relief, The Hope Center, LAMP, and Growing Roots.

We gave \$600 to seminarians and \$3000 to Growing Roots.

Praise God for His amazing grace and giving us the honor of being able to share His blessings around the world!



## MORE NOTES & NEWS



**YOU are invited to a Baby Shower** for Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne students. Students attending the Seminary receive a gift box of items when a child is born. This year several families are expecting a child. In November 2023 a family was blessed with the gift of twins.

**Date:** March 3

**Location:** Youth House

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Hosted by:** St. John's Ladies Aid

**RSVP:** Mary Mayer 937-642-2181 or Teresa Nickle 937-243-7314

Suggested **unwrapped items:** Onesies, socks, teethingers, books, rattles, toys, bibs, blankets, clothes, diapers, **unscented wipes**, etc. If you are unable to attend, a box will be set up in the Fellowship Hall and gym to place your donations.

Please join us in fellowship and support a gift from God to our future church workers. We hope to see **YOU** March 3 at the Youth House. We look forward to spending part of a Sunday afternoon with YOU.



## Junior Youth Event! Sunday, February 25th 6-8 pm



## Minute to Win it Games!

Come for the fellowship, laughs, games and devos!

Bring a friend if you would like!

At the Youth House



**Join St. John's LYF on their Annual Mission Trip this Summer!** June 16th-22nd, LYF is headed to Fredericksburg, Maryland to serve. While on the mission trip, youth and leaders will serve the elderly, disabled, and impoverished with home repairs, while most importantly, shining and sharing Christ's light to all! Eligible youth are entering 9th grade this fall and up. Cost to attend is \$225 per youth. We are also looking for adult leaders (specifically female) to attend. Registration forms can be found at [www.tinyurl.com/LYFMissionTrip2024](http://www.tinyurl.com/LYFMissionTrip2024). Please reach out to Laura Zeiler at 913-549-0057 or [lauraezeiler@gmail.com](mailto:lauraezeiler@gmail.com) with any questions. It's sure to be a wonderful week!

### Upcoming Sr. LYF Events

- **TODAY, Sunday, Feb. 18th - Escape Room Outing** - For those who signed up with Laura, meet at 2pm at the Youth House to carpool to Powell for the escape room with plans to return at 4:30pm. Questions, contact Let Laura at 913-549-0057.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21st - Lenten Meal** - Meet at 3:45pm in the school cafeteria to set up for the Lenten meal, followed by serving and cleaning up. Each youth/family is asked to bring a pot of soup for the meal to serve. Donations raised will go towards the mission trip this summer.
- **Sunday, March 10th - Devotions/Games** at the Youth House, 6pm
- **Wednesday, March 13th - Lenten Meal** - Meet at 3:45pm in the school cafeteria to set up, serve, and clean up for the Lenten meal. This meal will be served alongside LEAP, with donations going towards the summer mission trip.
- **Saturday, March 30th - Egg My Yard Fundraiser** - Meet at 2:30pm in the school cafeteria to stuff Easter eggs, followed by delivering/hiding eggs in yards around town! Funds raised go towards LYF events/mission trip.
- **Sunday, April 14th - Devotions/Games** at the Youth House, 6pm.

## NOTES & NEWS ITEMS

### **The *Singing Saints* of Saint Paul Lutheran High School**

Performing at St. John's, Marysville

Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Church Sanctuary

The *Singing Saints* of Saint Paul Lutheran High School, of Concordia, Missouri, will be performing a concert on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. here at St. John's Lutheran Church in the church sanctuary.

The choir is on its annual domestic tour, singing this year on a nine-day tour through the Midwest and East Coast parts of the United States. They will be performing in Perryville and Columbia, MO; Maryville and Loudon, TN; Asheville, NC; Richmond and Ashburn, VA; Silver Spring, MD, and Ft. Wayne, IN. The touring choir is made up of 46 students from the 60+ voice concert choir and they will be performing a varied program that includes classic German choral works by Mendelssohn, Bruckner, and Haydn, as well as some hymns, anthems and spirituals. The first half of the program will feature works based exclusively on Psalm texts and it also includes a piece by the women's and the men's choruses. The award-winning choir is under the direction of Dr. Jerrode Marsh. The concert is free, but donations are kindly requested to help cover expenses for their tour.

Saint Paul Lutheran High School is the only remaining LCMS residential high school in the United States, located in central Missouri, about an hour east of Kansas City. The college-prep school offers college-level courses, STEM, Honors, and AP classes, and numerous opportunities to be involved in sports, music, drama, academic teams, and more. For more information about the school, visit [www.splhs.org](http://www.splhs.org).





## MORE NOTES & NEWS

# SPRING FLOWER SALE

Coming Soon

Foertmeyer  
& Sons  
Greenhouse Co.

Spring flower ordering starts February 27  
from any of our SJS students or after  
weekend worship services.

### ATTENTION: Thrivent Members

**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>

Please don't forget to designate your 2023 Choice Dollars before March 31, 2024.

If you have questions or need assistance in directing your Choice Dollars, contact Thrivent at: **1-800-847-4836** and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted and then **press 1**. You may also go online to **Thrivent.com/thrivent choice**, navigate to the "Get Started" section and click on Thrivent Choice.

If you have 2023 Choice Dollars remaining by the end of March, Thrivent will designate those Choice Dollars to something of their choice. Remember Choice Dollars are **no cost to you and allows you to further support the ministry at St. John's Marysville.**

Last year, St. John's received \$6442.00 through Choice Dollars so every amount received is counted and is appreciated. Thank you to all who participate in this program!

## TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

### Old Testament Reading: *Genesis 22:1-18*

*Abraham, who had waited until he was 100 years old to have a son, is now faced with the supreme test of his faith. God tells Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Abraham is obedient- and trusting. He builds an altar and places wood and Isaac upon it, ready to slay him. He is stopped at the last second and provided with a ram to sacrifice.*

*The Lord in Heaven, who will someday send His own son to be sacrificed, commends Abraham, and blesses him and his descendants through all the nations.*

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." <sup>2</sup>He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. <sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." <sup>12</sup>He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup>And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will

provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” <sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading: *James 1:12-18*

*James makes clear a number of things here. Those who persevere in trials will be blessed. He also makes clear that God does not tempt anyone, but it is the evil desires of people themselves that lead to temptation, sin and ultimately death.*

*In the end, anything that is good and perfect comes from God.*

<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup>But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup>Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. <sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Holy Gospel: *Mark 1:9-15*

*Mark chronicles three distinct events just in these few verses- The baptism of Jesus by John where God speaks and says He loves and is pleased with His Son. (We can see the Trinity in verses 10-11) The temptation of Jesus by Satan for forty days in the wilderness. And Jesus starting His ministry in Galilee with a very specific message of the good news, “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe.”*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

